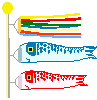
Children’s Day: May 5

Grade 4

Activity: Create the carp kite using template and additional materials.

Color in and decorate the kite then cut around the dotted line and roll the kite into a tube, joining the short edges with a little glue or sticky tape. Attach streamers and tie with a ribbon to a pole.

# Kodomo-no-hi (Children's Day) - *May 5*



**Children's Day** (こどもの日, *Kodomo no hi*[**?**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Installing_Japanese_character_sets)) is a Japanese national holiday which takes place annually on May 5, the fifth day of the fifth month, and is part of the Golden Week. It is a day set aside to respect children's personalities and to celebrate their happiness. It was designated a national holiday by the Japanese government in 1948.

On [Children's Day](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/childrens_day_japan.htm) in Japan, families hang out an array of colorful carp kites to symbolize their children growing up healthy, determined and strong.

## In Japanese the carp stands for strength and courage.

What's the meaning of this event?  
Children's Day *(Kodomo-no-hi)* falls on May 5, and one of the most popularly celebrated national holidays. It is also a seasonal festival called *Tango-no-sekku* (Iris Festival), because May 5 marks the beginning of summer on the old lunar calendar.



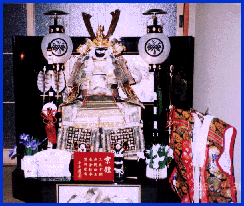
What do people do on this day?  
Although it is called Children's Day, it is actually celebrated as the Boys' Festival. So, most families with boys celebrate it. To drive away bad spirits and celebrate the future of their sons, families hoist *koinobori* (cloth carp streamers) from balconies and flagpoles, and indoors display *gogatsu-ningyo* (samurai dolls and their armaments) on tiered ledges. Children take *syobuyu* (a bath with a bunch of floating iris leaves), and eat *kashiwa-mochi* (a rice cake wrapped in an oak leaf ) and *chimaki* (a dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves). Carp, samurai, irises, oak trees, and bamboos all symbolize strength.



Are there objects associated with this eventH



*Gogatsu-ningyo* (samurai dolls and their armaments)



*Koinobori* (cloth coustructed carp streamers)



*Chimaki* (a dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves)



*Kashiwa-mochi* (a rice cake wrapped in an oak leaf)



Koinobori : The black carp (*Magoi*) at the top represents the father, the red carp (*Higoi*) represents the mother, and the last carp represents the son, with an additional carp added for each subsequent son with color and position denoting their relative age.)